



CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION  
of WINEGRAPE  
GROWERS



**CAFF**  
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
with FAMILY FARMERS



April 4, 2022

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture  
1020 N Street, Room 362  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2213 (Aguiar-Curry) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

We are writing to you in support of AB 2213 (Aguiar-Curry), which creates an advisory committee to recommend the distribution of state funds for smoke exposure research. Our organizations represent winegrape growers, wineries, and affiliated businesses who have been disproportionately impacted by wildfire smoke over the last five years. Significant investment in research to measure, mitigate, and prevent impacts from smoke are needed to help ensure the continued success of California's wine community.

AB 2213 (Aguiar-Curry) will help California vintners and winegrape growers better address wildfire smoke exposure in California vineyards by funding the following research: accurate measurement of smoke compounds in winegrapes and wine, methods to mitigate the damage to winegrapes and wine that can occur from exposure to smoke, and methods to prevent smoke damage to winegrapes and wine.

California's vineyards and wineries have been severely impacted by wildfires and smoke exposure in recent years. The 2020 fires alone are expected to cost vineyards and wineries \$3.7 billion. The grapes that weren't harvested due to smoke exposure from the 2020 wildfires cost winegrape growers \$601 million and are expected to result in lost wine sales of \$2.8 billion. Since 2017, California's wineries and winegrape growers have seen significant losses in many parts of the state, the North Coast and Central Coast have been particularly hard hit by smoke impacts. Wildfires in 2021 caused damage to winegrapes in the Sierra Foothills. Consumer perceptions of the potential impact to California wine quality due to smoke exposure led to further economic losses, particularly in important export markets.

AB 2213 (Aguiar-Curry) will help California's wineries and winegrape growers by creating an advisory committee to advise the Secretary of California's Department of Food and Agriculture

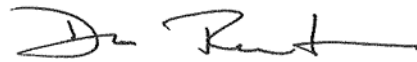
how to distribute state funds for research into measurement, mitigation, and prevention of smoke damage to California winegrapes.

California's wine community has been repeatedly threatened by catastrophic wildfires. More investment in research to help limit the impacts of smoke on winegrapes will help California's wine community remain resilient. We urge your AYE vote on AB 2213 (Aguiar-Curry) when it is heard by your committee.

Sincerely,



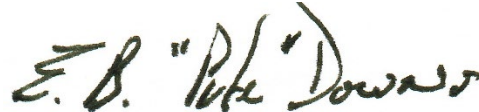
Michael Miiller  
Director of Government Relations  
California Association of Winegrape  
Growers



Dave Runsten  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers




Taylor Roschen  
Policy Advocate  
California Farm Bureau



Edgar "Pete" Downs  
President  
Family Winemakers of California



Brenda Bass  
Policy Advocate  
California Chamber of Commerce



Noelle G. Cremers  
Director, Environmental & Regulatory  
Affairs  
Wine Institute